

Serial No. 09/599,158

Docket No. 4303-4050US2**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-57. (cancelled)

58. (currently amended) A expandable stent, comprising, in its expanded condition: a plurality of interconnected flexible cells defining a stent having a proximal end, a central section and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the cells arranged in a plurality of interconnected flexible rows disposed along the longitudinal axis of the stent with at least one distal row disposed at the distal end of the stent and at least one proximal row disposed at the proximal end of the stent, wherein the cells disposed in the at least one row at an end of the stent are adapted to exert greater radial force and are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

59. (currently amended) The stent of claim 70, wherein cells in the most distal row and the row proximal to the most distal row of the stent are adapted to exert greater radial force and are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

60. (currently amended) A expandable stent, comprising in its expanded condition: a plurality of interconnected flexible cells defining a stent having a proximal end, a central section and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the cells arranged in a plurality of interconnected flexible rows disposed along the longitudinal axis of the stent with at least one distal row disposed at the distal end of the stent and at least one proximal row disposed at the proximal end of the stent, wherein the cells disposed in the at least one row at an end of the stent are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

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61. (currently amended) The stent of claim 75, wherein cells in the most distal row and the row proximal to the most distal row of the stent are ~~adapted to be~~ more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

62. (previously presented) An expandable stent, comprising:

- a) a plurality of interconnected flexible cells defining a stent having a proximal end, a central section and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the cells arranged in a plurality of interconnected flexible rows disposed along the longitudinal axis of the stent with at least one distal row disposed at the distal end of the stent and at least one proximal row disposed at the proximal end of the stent, each of the flexible cells including a first member, a second member, a third member and, a fourth member;
- b) a first C-shaped loop disposed between the first member and the third member;
- c) a second C-shaped loop disposed between the second member and the fourth member;
- d) adjacent rows of cells connected to each other; and
- e) wherein the cells of the at least one row at an end of the stent are provided with first and third members that are shorter than the first and third members in the central section, and wherein the at least one row at an end of the stent is coupled to an adjacent row with flexible connectors that result in a more flexible connection than connections between cells in the rows of the stent in the central area.

63. (previously presented) The stent of claim 80, wherein cells in the most distal row and the row proximal to the most distal row of the stent are coupled to a next adjacent row in the proximal direction with flexible connectors that result in a more flexible connection than connections between cells in the rows of the stent in the central area.

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64. (cancelled).

65. (currently amended) A cylindrical stent, having a proximal end, a distal end, a center section and a longitudinal axis, comprising:

a plurality of interconnected circumferential bands wherein each of the circumferential bands defines a generally serpentine pattern comprising a plurality of strut members and a plurality of loops and adjacent circumferential bands being coupled each to the other by structures extending generally in the longitudinal direction, all forming circumferentially extending rows of cells,

said stent having two types of circumferential bands, a first type of circumferential band and a second type of circumferential band,

the first type of circumferential band having a strut members shorter in length than the strut members of the second type of circumferential band,

wherein a at least one of the first type of the circumferential band is coupled to an adjacent second type of circumferential band by structures extending generally in the longitudinal direction which are more flexible than those structures coupling said second type of circumferential band to an adjacent second type of circumferential band.

66. (previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 65 where the strut members of said first type of circumferential bands have a length in the longitudinal direction of the stent that is less than the length in the longitudinal direction of the strut members of said second type of circumferential bands.

67. (previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 66 where said stent is a radially self-expanding stent.

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68. (previously presented) A cylindrical stent, having a proximal end, a distal end, a center section and a longitudinal axis, comprising:

a plurality of interconnected circumferential bands wherein each of the circumferential bands defines a generally serpentine pattern comprising a plurality of strut members and a plurality of loops and adjacent circumferential bands being coupled each to the other by structures extending generally in the longitudinal direction forming circumferentially extending rows of cells,

said stent having two types of circumferential bands, a first type of circumferential band and a second type of circumferential band,

the first type of circumferential band having strut members shorter in length than the strut members of the second type of circumferential band,

wherein a first type of circumferential band is coupled to an adjacent second type of circumferential band by structures extending generally in the longitudinal direction which are more flexible than those structures coupling said second type of circumferential band to an adjacent second type of circumferential band.

69. (previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 68 where the strut members of said first type of circumferential bands have a length in the longitudinal direction of said stent that is less than the length in the longitudinal direction of the strut members of the second type of circumferential bands.

70. (currently amended) The stent of claim 58 wherein the cells disposed in the at least one distal row of the stent ~~are adapted to exert greater radial force and are adapted to be more flexible~~ than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

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71. (currently amended) The stent of claim 58 wherein the cells disposed in the at least one proximal row of the stent are adapted to exert greater radial force and are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

72. (currently amended) The stent of claim 71, wherein cells in the most proximal row and the row distal to the most proximal row of the stent are adapted to exert greater radial force and are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

73. (currently amended) The stent of claim 59 wherein the cells disposed in the at least one proximal row of the stent are adapted to exert greater radial force and are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

74. (currently amended) The stent of claim 73, wherein cells in the most distal row and the row proximal to the most distal row of the stent and the cells in the most proximal row and the row distal to the most proximal row of the stent are adapted to exert greater radial force and are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

75. (currently amended) The stent of claim 60 wherein the cells disposed in the at least one distal row of the stent are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

76. (currently amended) The stent of claim 60 wherein the cells disposed in the at least one proximal row of the stent are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

77. (currently amended) The stent of claim 76, wherein cells in the most proximal row and the row distal to the most proximal row of the stent are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

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78. (currently amended) The stent of claim 61 wherein the cells disposed in the at least one proximal row of the stent are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

79. (currently amended) The stent of claim 78, wherein cells in the most distal row and the row proximal to the most distal row of the stent and the cells in the most proximal row and the row distal to the most proximal row of the stent are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

80. (previously presented) The stent of claim 62, wherein the cells of the at least one distal row are provided with first and third members that are shorter than the first and third members in the central section.

81. (previously presented) The stent of claim 62, wherein the cells of the at least one proximal row are provided with first and third members that are shorter than the first and third members in the central section.

82. (previously presented) The stent of claim 81, wherein cells in the most proximal row and the row distal to the most proximal row of the stent are coupled to a next adjacent row in the distal direction with flexible connectors that result in a more flexible connection than connections between cells in the rows of the stent in the central area.

83. (previously presented) The stent of claim 80, wherein the cells of the at least one proximal row are provided with first and third members that are shorter than the first and third members in the central section.

84. (previously presented) The stent of claim 83, wherein cells in the most distal row and the row proximal to the most distal row of the stent are coupled to a next adjacent row in the proximal direction with flexible connectors that result in a more flexible connection than connections between cells in the rows of the stent in the central area and cells in the most

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proximal row and the row distal to the most proximal row of the stent are coupled to a next adjacent row in the distal direction with flexible connectors that result in a more flexible connection than connections between cells in the rows of the stent in the central area.

85. (previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 65 where the distal end of the stent comprises a first type of circumferential band.

86. (previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 65 where the proximal end of the stent comprises a first type of circumferential band.

87. (previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 68 where the distal end of the stent comprises a first type of circumferential band.

88. (previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 68 where the proximal end of the stent comprises a first type of circumferential band.